

Amendments to the Claims

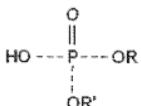
Please replace the prior listing of claims with the following listing:

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously presented) A method of insulating a subsea structure, the method comprising:
 - injecting a substance comprising a hydrocarbon into the subsea structure;
 - allowing said substance to form a gel, the formed gel having a dynamic viscosity of more than 1000Pa.S;
 - wherein spheres enclosing hydrocarbon gas are added to the substance.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently amended) A method of insulating a subsea structure, the method comprising:
 - injecting a substance comprising a hydrocarbon into the subsea structure;

allowing said substance to form a gel, the formed gel having a dynamic viscosity of more than 4000 2000 Pa.S;
wherein the subsea structure comprises a conduit, said conduit enclosing a second conduit and the method comprises recovering hydrocarbons within the second conduit.

11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the gel is adapted to transfer a portion of the hydrostatic pressure on the first conduit onto the second conduit.
13. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the thermal properties of the gel are varied over the length of a conduit or series of conduits.
14. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the substance comprises a polymeric compound and a transition metal salt.
15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one of the polymeric compound and transition metal salt is encapsulated in wax.
16. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the polymeric compound comprises an orthophosphate.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the orthophosphate comprises an orthophosphate ester.
19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the orthophosphate ester has the structure according to formula I:



Formula I

wherein R is a straight or branched chain alkyl or alkaryl group having about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms and R' is hydrogen or an aryl, alkaryl or alkyl group having about up to 18 carbon atoms.

20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein about 0.3% to 3.0 wt% of the phosphate is added to the substance.
21. (Previously presented) A method as claimed claim 15, wherein the transition metal salt and polymeric compound are added in an equimolar ratio.
22. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the transition metal salt comprises a ferric salt.
23. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the ferric salt is selected from the group consisting of ferric sulphate, ferric citrate, ferric ammonium sulphate, ferric ammonium citrate, ferric chloride, and ferric gluconate.
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, of insulating a submerged conduit, the method comprising the steps of:
applying at least one substance comprising a hydrocarbon to the conduit before it is submerged; then;
submerging the conduit under water; and
allowing the substance to form a gel with a dynamic viscosity of more than 1000Pa.S;
wherein the conduit comprises further conduits enclosed therein.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the formed gel retains its integrity unsupported.
41. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the substance is a pourable fluid prior to forming the gel.
42. (New) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein cenospheres or microspheres are added to the substance.